The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief resume of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

Men generally act according to custom.—Bacon.

WHOLE NO. 912. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1928. VOL. 18, NO. 29.

HONEYED WORDS CAN'T CURE INJUNCTION TYRANNY

Workers should not permit the injunction evil to be engulfed in a discussion of personalities in this campaign.

A President can not settle this question. It is a matter for Congress to decide. The Congress to be elected this November takes office in December, next year. Labor's fight against the injunction will then be launched.

Trade unionists should not be lulled by such suggestions by any candidate that he opposes the "excessive" use of the equity power in labor disputes, or that he favors correcting "abuses" of this process.

This professed sympathy with the workers has no substance. The power of injunction judges remains untouched. All that is done is to express the pious wish that they will be "reasonable."

No judge ever acknowledged he was "excessive" in the issuance of these writs or that he ever abused his power.

Federal Judge Wilkerson will not say his order against railroad shopmen was "excessive." Federal Judge Anderson will not repudiate his sweeping edict in 1919 against bituminous coal miners.

William Howard Taft was a private citizen in 1919. He wrote editorials for the Philadelphia Public Ledger. In the November 20th issue of that newspaper he, too, warned against the "excessive" use of the labor injunction. He said their frequent application "would shake to pieces the whole machine."

Two years later President Harding appointed Mr. Taft chief justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Almost immediately Justice Taft handed down two decisions—Truax and Granite City—that upheld sweeping labor injunctions. In both cases new records were made in annulling labor's rights. In the Granite City case Justice Taft held that workers can picket only through the good graces of the court.

In the Truax case the court ignored an Arizona law which prohibits an injunction against picketing and workers' pleas not to patronize unfriendly firms. The Supreme Court said this law gives workers privileges that are denied competing restaurant keepers if they inaugurated such a campaign.

This decision appears to be a clear intimation that the court may consider as "class legislation" attempts of states to specifically exempt labor from the operation of the injunction process in industrial disputes.

The Supreme Court's approval of the Bedford cut stone injunction is too recent to be forgotten. Here the court held that union granite cutters can be enjoined if they refuse to handle non-union stone.

Justices Brandeis and Holmes called this a "serf" decision in their minority opinion.

No worker should have such a simple faith that he expects an injunction judge will not abuse his power or that he will not be "excessive" in the use of same.

The remedy for the labor injunction evil is to take this power from courts. This is a function of Congress. If judges are to decide what is "excessive" we will have as many standards as we have judges.

We must have government by law, not government by conscience.

Injunction Judge Aids Employer Who Broke Pledge With Drivers

Boston, Sept. 29.—Justice Wait orders members of the Milk Wagon Drivers' Union to pay $55,647 to Alden Brothers Company, milk dealers.

These workers, the court holds, engaged in an illegal strike when they refused to accept non-union conditions from a concern that broke its promise to the union.

The dispute started last year, when the union asked that its expiring contract be renewed. The firm suggested that the old contract be continued until the union reached an agreement with a competitor, who was conferring with the union. The competitor raised wager $1 a week.

When the unionists asked the Alden concern to live up to its agreement, the management declared for the non-union shop and offered employes $2 a week increase if they would accept the conditions. The drivers refused and suspended work.

That the Alden firm had their plans arranged for a strike is shown by the strikebreakers who were escorted to the plant the next morning by police and private detectives.

A temporary injunction was issued against the drivers, and after several hearings in chancery court, it was ordered that the affair was "an illegal strike ordered by the union to force firms to sign a closed shop agreement." The master awarded the firm damages to the amount of $73,000 because of loss of trade and police expense.

The court approved the report except $10,000 allowed for police. The workers are fighting the pledge-breaking concern, despite the outrageous award. An appeal will be carried to the State Supreme Court.

STATE COURTS IGNORED BY PUBLIC UTILITIES

New York, Sept. 29.—Legislation that would debar public utilities from rushing to federal courts until they have gone through State courts is favored by Joseph V. McKee of the Board of Aldermen.

Under the law corporations can appeal to the State courts from decisions made by the Public Service Commission, but the practice is to appeal to federal courts, as in the Interborough Rapid Transit Company's attempt to ignore its 5-cent contract with the city and raise fares to 7 cents.

In a letter to United States Senator Wagner, Mr. McKee said:

"Almost invariably the utility corporation, when defeated after exhaustive hearings before the commission, casts aside its right to appeal to the State courts.

"In other words, after a full hearing before the Public Service Commission, with a right to appeal to the State courts, the defeated public utility corporation goes into the Federal court to raise the rates on the claim that the State law confiscates the corporation's property because the rate does not permit a fair and reasonable return to the corporation on the value of its property.

"This double trial method has crippled rate regulation. For all practical purposes there is no rate regulation of public utilities in the United States at whatever little there now is will soon disappear."

AGNES H. WILSON DIES; WELL KNOWN TO LABOR

Blossburg, Pa., Sept. 29.—Agnes Hart Wilson, daughter of William B. Wilson, Secretary of Labor in President Wilson's cabinet and former secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, died in the State Hospital here, following an operation.

Miss Wilson was her father's counselor and companion. She was his campaign manager in 1926 when he ran against William Vare for United States Senator, and was considered his principal advisor in his contest for that election. She served as secretary for Mr. Wilson when he represented this district in Congress, and at the time of her death was the Democratic nominee for the same office.

Miss Wilson was well known to trade union officials. She understood the purposes and policies of organized labor.

COMPENSATION BILL URGED BY CHURCHMEN

Gr eley, Col., Sept. 29.—Proposed amendments to the State workmen's compensation bill were favored by the Colorado annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The churchmen also favored the anti-child labor amendment to the Federal Constitution.

The conference reaffirmed its 1916 declaration that the church must "teach the principle of the fullest cooperative control and ownership of industry and of the natural resources upon which industry depends."

VETERAN UNION TYPO RECALLS OLD TIMES

Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 29.—David P. Boyer, 85-year-old member of the Typographical Union, and veteran of organized labor, told of "the days of long ago" in an address at the opening session of the Ohio Federation of Labor convention.

Mr. Boyer represented the International Typographical Union in 1886 when the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the United States and Canada, organized in Pittsburgh in 1881, changed its name in this city to the American Federation of Labor.

At that convention Mr. Boyer nominated Samuel Gompers for president. He was unanimously elected. Mr. Boyer was nominated for secretary but withdrew in favor of Peter J. McGuire, "the Father of Labor Day."

The veteran printer issued the call for the meeting in this city which organized the Ohio Federation of Labor in 1884. He was treasurer of that body for five years and was the first chief organizer of the International Typographical Union. He was a member of the Ohio legislature and was active in the passage of many social laws.

Mr. Boyer maintains his long connections with organized labor and is preparing with other Ohio trade unionists to greet the A. F. of L. convention in this city in 1931, which they hope will be held here to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of that organization. Old Druid Hall, at 182 South Fourth Street, the birthplace of the A. F. of L., still remains an object of interest to visiting trade unionists.

MULE SPINNERS' CANCER IS IGNORED IN AMERICA

Washington, Sept. 29.—Mule-spinners' cancer is ignored in America, according to Frederick L. Hoffman, writing in the Monthly Bulletin, published by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The article reviews studies made in Great Britain, where most of the reported cases of mule-spinners' cancer have occurred. Attention is called to the small number of cases reported among textile workers in this country, which is probably due, it is stated, to the failure of the reporting physician to note the occupational connection.

British data show that mortality from cancer among this class of textile operatives is 14 times as great as that among the general population between the ages of 25-35; 60 times as great between the ages of 45-55 and 100 times as great between the ages of 55-75.

Authorities are fairly well agreed that oil sprayed from the machines causes the disease.

AMERICAN LUMBER IN FOREIGN JUNK

New York, Sept. 29.—Alleged European antiques are being manufactured and sold to be palmed off on rich American tourists, said F. J. H. Kracke, port appraiser, "Of the millions of dollars worth of antiques which pass through our hands we find that more than one-half are fakes, manufactured for the trade by skilled European workmen," said the federal official. "In many instances we detected American iron and chestnut wood in 'antiques' which the purchasers believed had been in European families for thousands of years."

FARM CO-OPS GROW

Washington, Sept. 29.—Cooperation among farmers and patrons is being extended, according to the Department of Agriculture.

Present membership in more than 11,400 co-ops is estimated at 2,500,000 shareholders. This includes shippers, consignors and patrons. The shareholders have increased 300,000 in 10,803 associations, listed in 1925.

"YELLOW DOG" IN PEORIA

Peoria, Sept. 29.—The Board of Education calls on school employes to sign a "yellow dog." This denial of the right to join a voluntary organization of their own choosing is denounced by organized labor.

ITALY'S TERRORISTS WILL BE LEGALIZED

Rome, Sept. 29.—Mussolini will force his personally controlled parliament to pass a law which gives the Fascist Grand Council a constitutional status.

Under the proposed law the council will no longer act in an advisory capacity to the Fascist party, but will be the government. It will draw up a list of Fascist candidates for parliament which will be submitted to the voters. Selection of any other candidate is denied.

It will also make a list of persons it regards fit to be prime minister, thus having a final voice in the selection of Mussolini's successor. It will list persons it regards suitable to hold government posts, thus becoming the king's chief advisor in the selection of ministers and under secretaries.

The council is a group who have usurped direction of domestic affairs, and have acted as spokesman for Mussolini. They enforce their will through terroristic tactics and have outlawed strikes, established compulsory arbitration, prohibited opposition parties, replaced legitimate unions with Fascist "unions" and gagged the press.

Members of the council are immune from arrest without authorization of their colleagues. The law is merely a symbol under the Fascist regime.

SLOW-DOWN LIBEL DENIED BY UNION

Boston, Sept. 29.—Organized bricklayers are again attempting to overtake the old libel that they restrict output.

In the convention of the International Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers, here, these workers again challenge this claim by the enemies of organized labor.

"We declare that there is no such restriction as has been reported and there never has been such restriction," the resolution states.

The convention elected President Bowen to the position of president emeritus at an annual salary of $10,000 when he retires the first of the year. He will be succeeded by First Vice President Thornton.

EDITOR IN ALABAMA ADMITS UTILITY PAY

Washington, Sept. 29.—The Alabama Power Company paid the Florence (Ala.) Herald for attacks on public ownership that are forwarded to 200 country newspapers in the South and in New England.

Marcy B. Darnell, owner of the paper, told the Federal Trade Commission that the papers do not know the bill is paid by the power company. He could not see what difference it made to these newspapers who paid the bill. He refused to tell the commission what papers are securing his service, and excitedly denied he is "putting anything over on them."

"INVESTIGATE BEFORE INVESTING"

The public is urged to "investigate before investing," but this advice is not intended for workers who are encouraged to buy stock of the concern in which they are employed.

Returns on stock ownership is uncertain. Stock differs from bonds in that the latter is a mortgage on the property. A bond holder can throw the property into bankruptcy if dividends are not paid.

Stockholders are paid interest only after other financial requirements are fulfilled. Interest on bonds, replacement funds, depreciation and sinking funds are given first attention. The stockholders are then considered.

Even if there is sufficient money to pay interest on stock, the board of directors can vote to pass dividends and leave the money in the treasury for future requirements. Unless the stock is cumulative, which is rare, that especial interest is lost to the stockholder.

The corporation "insiders" always have the advantage. They diversify their holdings. They never "put their eggs in one basket," as the workers are called upon to do.

The "insiders" may also secretly control a subsidary corporation that is a money maker, while the parent corporation, whose stock is owned by trustful workers, is losing money.

Workers should remember that there are two reasons why management favors employes' stock ownership—this system ties workers to their jobs and it is an assured source of revenue in financing corporations.

"Investigate before investing."

WORLD REVOLUTION POSTPONED

Soviet Russia has again postponed its world revolution by inviting foreign, notably American, capital to that country.

The Communists are long on talk, but short on cash. Foreigners, according to cable dispatches, "will practically be allowed to draw up their own contracts."

When the "reds" began operations, they barred capitalists and attempted to foment revolutions elsewhere. But they found it impossible to swing the world by its tail and made the first retreat in their own country by recognizing small capitalists. They call this their New Economic Policy.

"N. E. P." drugged the proletariat, but it has not cured their ills. Mines, railroad building and immense natural resources of Russia are now dangled before the eyes of foreign money lenders.

The "reds" are forced to face economic facts, while they thunder their explanations that they will engulf the capitalists with one fell swoop. No date is set for this event, but a few centuries is nothing to the cheer leaders.

For the present the program makers will accept foreign money.

The "reds'" latest switch may revive agitation in the United States for recognition of the soviets. Bankers were never known to object to a gunboat or two to collect interest and to protect their principal.

The American financier will hardly sign a blank check and hand same to the wily "reds."

UNION ACTORS OPPOSE GOUGING LABOR AGENTS

New York, Sept. 29.—No member of Actors' Equity Association will hereafter be permitted to pay more than one-half week's pay to any dramatic or employment agency.

Equity is affiliated to A. F. of L. and includes the leading actors and actresses on the American stage. The new rule was adopted at a special meeting in this city.

Managers must hereafter employ Equity members through agencies which be licensed by Equity. The actors agree to only patronize such licensed agencies.

Theatrical managers oppose the plan, and Equity officials counter with the threat to abolish all agencies and book employment of their members through their organization.

"We have no desire to take on the work that would be involved, but we are going to protect our members," said Frank H. Gillman, executive secretary of Equity.

AUGUST WORK FIGURES SHOW 3 PER CENT GAIN

Washington, Sept. 29.—Unemployment among organized workers decreased 3 per cent in 24 cities during August as compared with July, according to reports received by Wm. Green, A. F. of L. president. The percentage of unemployment during the first half year of 1928 was:

	All Trades.	Building Trades.	All Other Trades.
	Per Ct.	Per Ct.	Per Ct.
January	18	36	11
February	18	29	10
March	18	28	10
April	16	32	9
May	12	22	7
June	11	20	7
July	12	24	8
August	9	19	5

Preliminary figures for September indicate that unemployment among organized workers is not materially changing.

CHILDREN OF POOR WORKING IN STREETS

Washington, Sept. 29.—A recent study by the United States Children's Bureau of 7,000 children in street trades show that newspaper sellers and carriers formed the largest group and child peddlers the next largest.

Most of the children are from poor families, so that the economic factor played "a considerable part" in keeping these children at work, it is stated.

The similarity of the findings of this and earlier studies indicates, the report continues, that "conditions are not improving noticeably."

BIRTH RATE DROPS

Washington, Sept. 29.—The birth rate is "steadily and rapidly decreasing in the United States," reports the United States Bureau of Education, following a nation-wide survey of the school situation.

The birth rate has dropped from 25.1 per thousand population in 1921 in the registration area to 20.6 in 1926.

THEATER WORKERS GAIN

Seattle, Sept. 29.—A wage increase of $5 a week has been secured by musicians, stage employes and movie picture operators in this city. Building service employes are advanced $2 a week. All down-town theaters but three pay the new rates.

Machines Are Displacing Labor; Shorter Working Day Favored

Cleveland, Sept. 29.—The mechanization of industry is causing unemployment that can be remedied by reducing hours, said Secretary of Labor Davis in an address to the International Association of Public Employment Services.

"Men are being displaced so rapidly they can not be absorbed," said Mr. Davis. "In all our great industries machines are being introduced to enable a few machines to do the work formerly done by many. This is going on at such a rate that I am well within the bounds of conservatism in calling the resulting situation a new industrial revolution."

The speaker cited numerous instances where labor-saving machinery has swept workers into the streets. A brick machine makes 40,000 bricks an hour, as against 450 bricks in one eight-hour day in certain older plants, he said.

"No industry is escaping the new revolution. In every direction but one these new machines that displace workers are a boon to humanity. But in that one direction—of creating unemployment, even a temporary unemployment—they are developing a problem we can not ignore.

"Machinery is taking the place of human workers more rapidly than we have thus far been able to absorb them in new pursuits. That situation may well become a grave one if we do not exert ourselves to meet it.

"No one is foolish enough to admit that we can go on increasing mechanical gains that cause us a human loss. If humanitarianism can not stir us to prevent this suffering, then business sense should stir us. For we all know now that we lose something when even one man is out of a job. We lose the goods that he might have produced. We lose the sales we might have made to him. And if we allow this loss to grow so that thousands or even several millions of people have ceased to be producers and buyers, we face a heavy loss in national well-being. If for no better reason than to protect our pocket-book, what are we going to do about it?"

NATIONS JOCKEY FOR PLACE IN NAVY LIMITATION PARLEY

Washington, Sept. 29.—President Coolidge is considering the appointment of another American delegation to the Preparatory Commission on Disarmament, that recently failed to reach an agreement at Geneva.

The Commission consists of representatives of world powers. Its purpose is to prepare a program that will be a working basis for a world disarmament conference.

If the Preparatory Commission can agree the conference will be merely a matter of form.

President Coolidge, last year, asked the world powers to meet and agree on limiting cruisers, as battleships were limited at the Harding 1922 conference in this city.

Japan and England accepted the Coolidge invitation, but France and Italy refused. The conference was futile because England and the United States disagreed on cruiser tonnage. Since then England and France have agreed on naval limitation, and it is claimed that the agreement is harmful to America.

Every nation makes diplomatic pretense in favor of naval limitation but all of them are jockeying to be in the stronger position if the proposal is accepted.

England, for instance, with its far-flung interests, demands cruisers to protect its merchant marine, and opposes submarines that are so deadly to trade routes. America also objects to additional battleships. The United States favors battleships and submarines, and points out that England is now building merchant ships that can be quickly turned into cruisers.

Another barrier to a disarmament program is the demand that the natural and industrial resources and the geographical location of each country be considered. This involves questions for which there are no precedents. The United States, for instance, would be classed as a nation needing less armament than the first dispatch from other nations and its immense power to equip armies and build ships, as was done in the World War.

It is these tangles that the Preparatory Commission on Disarmament will again attempt to straighten out.

BRITISH COAL MINERS ARE LURED TO CANADA

London, England, Sept. 29.—Harrowing tales of hardships are received by relatives of miners who have been shipped to the Canadian harvest fields by the government.

The Daily Herald prints this letter received by the parents of one youth:

"Just a line to let you know that Canada is a washout and that the boys have been led into a trap. They are expecting us to work 16 hours a day for what a day, work which only lasts a fortnight. You can't earn your train fare back to Winnipeg, about $60 dollars to come back to England, so you can look out for trouble, as a lot have been turned on the streets.

"The miners have smashed nearly all the windows in Brandon so you can see how things are brewing. Don't answer as we don't know where we are going to spend the next day. We have been and have also been sick—fell flat on the farm and was declared unfit; so I am expecting to come home."

Toronto, Sept. 29.—The inflow of British workers to Dominion harvest fields was denounced by the Trades and Labor Congress convention.

Delegates said that men brought here so late in the harvest season would compete with men already seeking work.

RAILROAD TO OFFER FREE TAXI SERVICE

Washington, Sept. 29.—Will railroads in the future destroy the private taxi business around depots by delivering passengers directly to their homes or hotels?

The Pennsylvania Railroad is considering such delivery in this city. Attorneys have requested the Public Utilities Commission to permit the railroad to operate its own taxicab and bus service direct from the Union Station. Tickets sold in other cities would carry a stub entitling the purchaser to this service.

The attorneys were advised that public hearings would be necessary before the commission could act. The legal questions involved include the problem of whether it is interstate or intrastate transportation.

DISEASE HAS FREE HAND AMONG RURAL PEOPLES

Washington, Sept. 29.—This nation's boasted sanitation systems and disease control do not apply to our rural sections, according to a statement by the United States Public Health Service.

More than 80 per cent of the country's rural population, which aggregates 70,000,000 persons, is as yet unprovided with local health service.

The annual economic loss, aside from the loss of human life and happiness, is estimated at $1,000,000,000. From a money standpoint alone, adequate health service yields from 100 to 3,000 per cent, according to varying local conditions, the bureau states.

FORMED ONE UNION MONTHLY

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 29.—The organization of one new union a month since the first of the year is the record of the International Brotherhood of Paper Makers.

POWER TRUST PROBE UNFOLDS MANY DEALS

Washington, Sept. 29.—Robert E. Healy, chief counsel for the Federal Trade Commission, forced public utilities representatives to admit the existence of vast sums of money donated that have heretofore been concealed.

A reference in the accounts of the National Electric Light Association to an item of $10,000 for the Harvard School of Business Administration brought a statement that there is no indication that any such sum had been paid or promised. A number of small-er sums on the books were not cleared up.

D. C. Mathews, Wisconsin Railroad Commissioner, received $148 for expenses to a convention of the N. E. L. A.

J. F. Shaunessy, former chairman of the Missouri State Utilities Commission, was paid $1,000 in two checks.

Mrs. John D. Sherman, formerly president of the National Federation of Women's Clubs, was paid approximately $600 a month for about a year for special articles.

It was shown that Dr. S. S. Wyer, formerly an investigator for the Smithsonian Institution, received numerous checks for services and articles. Dr. Wyer connected this government agency in an illegal investigation he made of the publicly-owned Ontario hydro-electric plant which caused considerable concern, and which was later repudiated by Smithsonian officials. It now develops that Dr. Wyer prepared attacks on the Boulder Dam project, for which he was paid by the N. E. L. A.

Thomas F. Logan, general secretary of the New Jersey Public Utilities Association, showed he was quite proud of his secret legislative record.

INJUNCTION JUDGES ENLARGE ACTIVITY

Los Angeles, Sept. 29.—Three federal judges permanently enjoined interference with a street car company raising fares. The State Railroad Commission refused the request and the company appealed to judges who are appointed for life.

"Those who deride workers because they complain of government by injunction have a new baby laid right on their own door step," declares the Los Angeles Citizen.

"This decision is an invitation for any other privately owned public utility that believes it can gouge the public enough, to come to the court and plead poverty."

FAVOR OLD-AGE PENSIONS

Grand Island, Neb, Sept. 29.—An old-age pension bill, similar to one that was favored by the Nebraska Federation of Labor convention.

The unionists pointed out that improved machinery is displacing workers and wage earners over 45 years of age are forced into idleness.

OPPOSE CONVICT LABOR

Fort Worth, Texas, Sept. 29.—The State Board of Control may favor legislation that will provide for a convict-operated cement plant. Organized labor is preparing to contest the plan.

PAVING WORKERS GAIN

Plymouth, Pa., Sept. 29.—Paving workers here won their strike and increased wages 15 cents an hour. The new rate is 50 cents.

Machinery Is Not Popular Benefit If Greater Leisure Is Denied Labor

New York, Sept. 29.—If labor-saving machinery will not bring leisure to mankind "then the machine has failed completely," declared Albert Parsons Sachs, science editor of the New York World, writing in that newspaper on the installation of a maniless power station in this city. It will not be necessary to have an employe in the building, and the cost of installation is more than paid for by the saving in labor.

"Is the machine necessary brought a great promise to mankind," said Mr. Sachs. "It brought a promise that manual labor, back-breaking, tedious, monotonous, soul-numbing labor—would be done away with.

"But the result of the introduction of machinery on a large scale was a great increase in productive power, a great but not equally great increase in consuming power, and a great increased demand for the products of machine production that labor became bound to the machine. The introduction of machinery brought to the laborer shorter hours but more tedious even if not heavier work.

"All in all it has remained a great question in the minds of thinkers whether the human race has benefited from the introduction of machinery. Samuel Butler, the famous author of 'The Way of All Flesh,' wrote a book called 'Erewhon' in which he describes a highly civilized country which has ordered the destruction of all machinery because its thinkers had come to the conclusion that machinery was destroying mankind. There is an element of truth in this contention.

"But the human race is entering upon a new era when it devises machines not only for doing the heavy work of our civilization but also for doing the supervisory work which is so often monotonous and discouraging.

"Leisure is the most valuable of human possessions and leisure represents that part of our time which we can use as we will. And leisure is the one thing which the age of machinery ought to bring us. If the age of machinery cannot bring us leisure to experiment or fish or play football or write poetry or make scale models or tinker with a radio, then the machine has failed completely."